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Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 INSE-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 ABF-01 OMB-01
AID-05 EA-10 DODE-00 /036 W
----------118804 171220Z /46
P 171046Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9619
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 23729

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: REF
SUBJ: TEMPORARY LODGING FOR REFUGEES RESCUED BY THE USS FRANCIS HAMMOND
REF A. BANGKOK 22736 B. BANGKOK 22803 C. HONG KONG 10727 D. BANGKOK 23464

1. THE 77 REFUGEES ABOARD THE USS HAMMOND DISEMBARKED IN PATTAYA AUGUST 14, AND MOVED TO BANGKOK THE SAME DAY.

2. THE UNHCR HAS ARRANGED FOR THE REFUGEES TO STAY AT THE MAYA GUEST HOUSE IN BANGKOK AT A TOTAL COST OF APPROXIMATE LY 100 DOLLARS PER DAY FOR FOOD AND LODGING. THE PER CAPITA COST IS THUS A REASONABLE 1.30 DOLLARS PER DAY. TH UNHCR PROMISED THE RTG THAT ALL 77 WILL DEPART THAILAND FO ONWARD RESETTLEMENT WITHIN 30 DAYS, SO THE TOTAL FOOD AND LODGING EXPENSE SHOULD BE ABOUT 3000 DOLLARS IF THE ASSUR- ANCES ARRIVE BY AUGUST 31 AS REQUESTED IN REF D.

3. THE UNHCR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE AUGUST 15 ASKED US WHETHER WE COULD PAY THESE FOOD AND LODGING EXPENSES. HE POINTED OUT THAT UNHCR FUNDS ARE NOW LOW, AND APPEALED FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OUR ASSISTANCE SINCE IT IS LIKELY THAT AT LEAST 73 OF THE REFUGEES WILL BE RESETTLED IN THE UNITED STATES. WE DID NOT MAKE ANY COMMITMENTS, BUT PROMISED THE UNHCR THAT WE WOULD BRING THE MATTER TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION.

4. COMMENT: THERE ARE THREE LIKELY SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR SUBSISTENCE AND LODGING EXPENSES FOR REFUGEES THE U.S.

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ACCEPTS FROM SHIPS: THE UNHCR, ICEM, OR JVA (IRC).
WHILE ANY OF THE THREE OPTIONS IS FEASIBLE, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE MOST DESIRABLE ONE IS TO HAVE THE UNHCR PROVIDE FUNDS SINCE IT IS THE AGENCY MOST DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REFUGERS PENDING ICEM-ARRANGED DEPARTURE. ICEM WOULD BE OUR SECOND CHOICE, AND JVA OUR LAST PREFERENCE BECAUSE OF MINIMAL INVOLVEMENT IN THIS PHASE OF THE PROBLEM. ADDITIONALLY, OUR RESPONSE TO THIS UNHCR REQUEST IS LIKELY TO SET A PRECEDENT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON WHICH AGENCY SHOULD FUND THE UPKEEP IN BANGKOK OF REFUGEES FROM THE HAMMOND. ABRAMOWITZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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